

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2015
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Township, NJ

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:49 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Asprocolas, Peck, Pinhas

Absent: (3) Butch, Dancer, Posten

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the September 14, 2015, minutes.

AYES: (2) Asprocolas, Peck

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- Letter from SADC dated 10/28/15, re: New Fact Sheets: "N. J. Right to Farm Act" and "N. J. Agricultural Mediation Program". The letter and fact sheets were distributed to Council members via email on 10/29/15. Council members reviewed the letter and fact sheets and discussed the differences between commercial farming and farmland assessment. Farmers must meet the criteria for a commercial farm, which is different than the criteria for farmland assessment, in order to seek protection under the Right to Farm Act.
- Email from SADC dated 11/17/15, re: 2017 Annual Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Application Cycle. Council members reviewed and discussed the application requirements and updates to the target farm list. There are no additions to the target farm list. The Kaut Farm, which closed on 10/29/15, has been moved from the target list to the preserved farm list. The former Casola Farm, Block 55, Lot 1, was acquired by the State and has been moved to the Other Preserved Open Space list. The Perl Acres South parcel, Block 55, Lot 2, is under contract with the State and has been moved to the Other Preserved Open Space list. The former D'Amico estate properties have been removed from the target list due to development of the individual lots. The two Horowitz properties, Block 14, Lots 11.06 and 11.07, were removed from the target farm list due to a subdivision, lot line adjustment and contract with the Monmouth County Park System to preserve a portion of each of the former lots. The Secretary will make the necessary updates to the application and will submit the application package prior to the December 15th submission deadline.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** No discussion.
- **Farm Leases:** No discussion.
- **Baird Homestead Project:** Mr. Asprocolas reported that the Harvest Fest, which was held in October, went over well.

- **Farmland Preservation Process:** The process document has been updated to include the Ag Council's responsibilities. The draft document with several reference attachments was distributed for Council review. The same package of information was distributed to Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council members at their November 19th meeting. Mr. Asprocolas briefly reviewed the package after the November OSFP meeting and discussed state legislation and the Ag Council's responsibilities in the preservation process. Mr. Asprocolas explained that there will need to be coordination between both the Ag and the Open Space Councils when ranking properties going forward.
- **Open Space Trust Activity Report:** The 2015 report for the period January through October was distributed for Council review. No discussion.
- **Wildlife Management on Farms Next to Parkland:** The County Board of Agriculture is in the process of scheduling a meeting on this topic.
- **Rutgers Twilight Tour & BBQ:** Mr. Asprocolas explained that the tour, which took place in Cream Ridge, went over well. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

Pending Legislation

- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** No discussion.
- **Soil Disturbance / SADC Regulations:** Mr. Peck reported that the SADC has un-tabled this item however, information regarding new regulations is not yet available.

New Business

- **Schedule of Meetings for 2016:** The draft calendar was distributed for review. The schedule reflects meetings to be held on the first Monday of the month with the exception of January, when the meeting occurs on the Monday following the Township reorganization meeting and July and September, when the meetings occur on the second Monday to accommodate for the Independence Day and Labor Day holidays. The calendar will be voted on at the January 11, 2016, Council reorganization meeting.

At 8:19 PM, Ms. Pinhas made a Motion with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to move to executive session. With all in favor, the Council moved to executive session to discuss potential preservation projects.

At 8:32 PM, having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to adjourn and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary